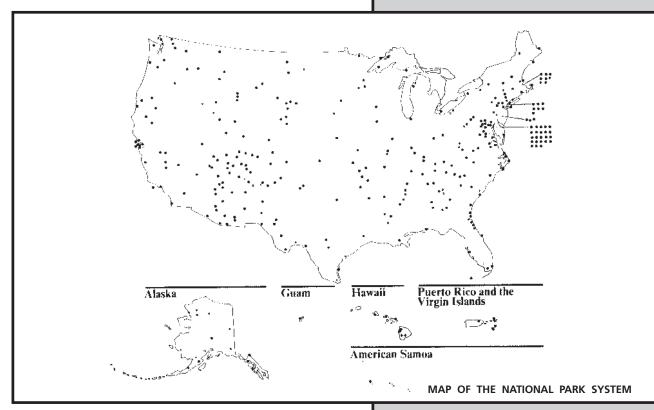
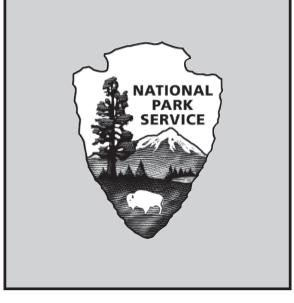
The National Park System is "the largest university in the world, with 367 branch campuses."

Robin Winks Yale Historian, 1992

As of 2002, the number of National Park units extended to 385, all of which are here for you.







Jefferson National Expansion Memorial 11 North Fourth Street St. Louis, MO 63102 (314) 655-1700

Produced by the Division of Museum Services and Interpretation: 2005

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for your valuable suggestions. You requested activities specific to each program topic that can be used before and after your museum visit. We listened and have designed this Teacher Activity Guide (TAG) especially for you. It is an investigative, hands-on approach to history.

The activities are based on curriculum guidelines for the states of Missouri and Illinois; they integrate cooperative learning, conflict resolution, and are relevant to real world experiences. In addition, suggested activities extend across the curriculum, providing an interdisciplinary approach, thereby enhancing the learning process.

We are also excited to introduce you to the National Park Service through an integrated theme concept. In addition to our basic program format, sections on career education and enrichment activities provide a multifaceted guide that can be used for a variety of student levels and subject areas.

We hope you find this guide "user-friendly" and look forward to hearing from you again. We appreciate your feedback and ask that you complete the enclosed Program Evaluation. If you have any questions or need further information, please call us at (314) 655-1700.

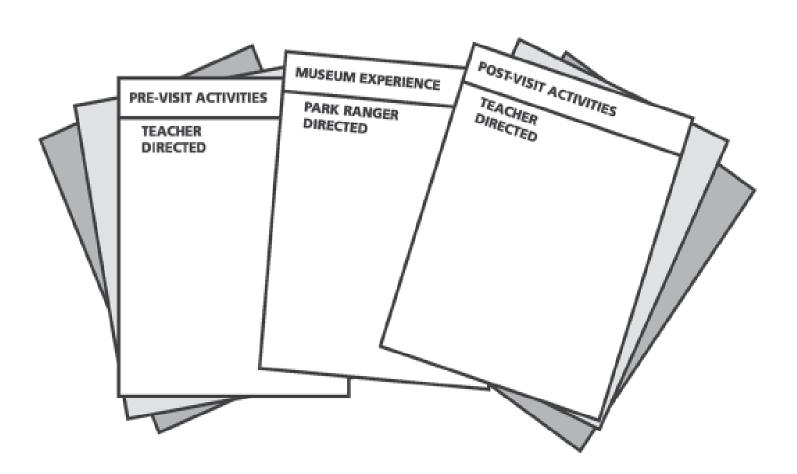
Sincerely,

Margaret G. O'Dell Superintendent

"USER FRIENDLY" FORMAT

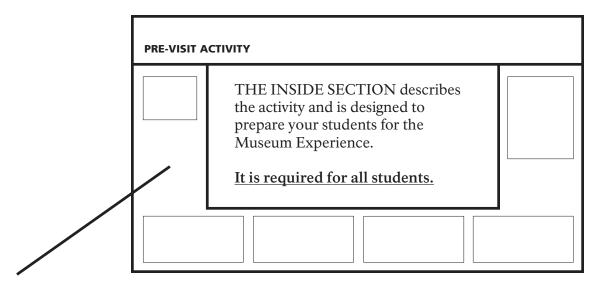
The activities in the TAG follow a simple format.

- Three PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES prepare your students before the MUSEUM EXPERIENCE. We suggest you use all three activities in sequence as access strategies. Depending on the performance level of your students, however, you may wish to move ahead to the REQUIRED activity.
- The MUSEUM EXPERIENCE briefly summarizes the program in which your students will participate at the Museum of Westward Expansion or Old Courthouse.
- Three POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES complement each of the three PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES and are designed for you to use after the MUSEUM EXPERIENCE. They are designed in sequence, yet also provide the flexibility to accommodate the specific needs of your students.



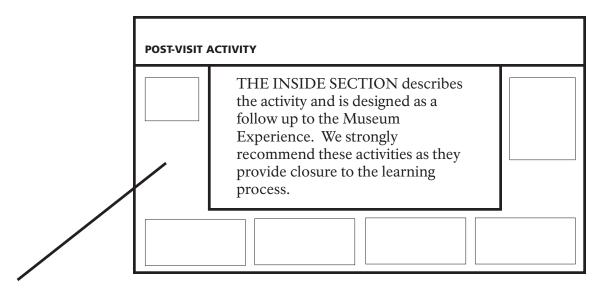
Each activity is designed in a wrap-around format to provide flexibility in your lessons and provide enrichment for a variety of student abilities.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY



THE WRAP-AROUND MARGIN conveys a relevant real world connection to the activity. Exploring a National Park Service career and related site provides an enrichment opportunity that models career choices and encourages productive citizenship. This section is optional; however, it can serve as a significant reinforcer of generalization skills.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITY



THE WRAP-AROUND MARGIN enhances the carry-over of real world connections by extending the lesson across the curriculum into Language Arts, Math, Science, Art and Music. This section is suggested and can be used at your discretion.



INTRODUCTION

During the 1800s, the city of St. Louis grew from a frontier town into the nation's fourth-largest metropolis. Early citizens conducted government business in a number of buildings, including a church, a tavern, and an abandon fort. Eventually, one of the city's founders, Auguste Chouteau, donated land on which to construct a courthouse.

St. Louis' first courthouse was a two-story, brick structure built in the Federal style. Featuring a cupola, a columned portico, and a large, circular courtroom, it was the grandest building in the state of Missouri when completed in 1828. But the city soon outgrew it and, within a decade, talk began of building a larger courthouse.

Public buildings of the day incorporated the simplicity, balance, and symmetry of ancient Greek temples, such as the Parthenon. Architects sought to evoke classical ideals, such as equality and citizenship, in buildings like the U.S. Capitol, Treasury Building, and the White House in Washington D.C. Dubbed Greek Revival, this architectural style befit the grand aspirations of the young Republic. As Gateway to the newly-acquired West, St. Louis sought to make the same eloquent statement with its new courthouse.

Architect Henry Singleton's design featured stately, carved columns, low-pitched, triangular roofs, and large, recessed doorways framed by narrow windows, or sidelights. Singleton's plain, low-pitched dome was later replaced by a taller, more ornate design similar to that on the U.S. Capitol building. In fact, many people opined that the building, when complete, would make a fine capitol if St. Louis were ever chosen for such a distinction. The honor never arrived, however, and progress on the building itself was a long time coming.

From the time masons laid the cornerstone in 1839, until completion of the remodeled dome in 1861, the courthouse was a work-in-progress. One newspaper editor wryly quipped, "This relic is getting along. The pillars of the west wing are up and the cornice will be on some of these days...Generations now alive may yet see the Court House completed." For twenty-two years, the rap of the judge's gavel coexisted with that of the workmen's hammer. One of the lower courtrooms was ready for use in March, 1843, and the rotunda was officially dedicated in 1845. It soon became the civic hub of St. Louis.

Amid the clutter of construction, citizens came to pay taxes, apply for licenses, vote, and serve jury duty. Court cases large and small began in the finished courtrooms. In 1849, an unassuming slave named Dred Scott brought suit for his freedom against his owner. His case eventually went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in 1857 that Scott was not a citizen and, therefore, was unable to use America's court system. It also declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, threatening the balance between pro-slavery and anti-slavery states and hastening the nation's course toward civil war.

The year 1849 brought throngs of travelers to the city of St. Louis. Many were pioneers preparing for their journey across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains in hopes of making a fortune in the California goldfields or Oregon's Willamette Valley. The trek could take six months by wagon, but a new method of transportation was on the horizon.

Citizens and delegates from fourteen states crowded the Old Courthouse rotunda in 1849 for a national convention championing construction of a transcontinental railroad. Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton stirred the gathering with a speech in favor of St. Louis as the route's midpoint. Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas, who later defended his seat against upstart Abraham Lincoln, argued for a northern route through Chicago. The race was on. When the dust settled, the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific's line connected Chicago with Sacramento, California. A golden spike sealed the deal at Promontory, Utah in 1869. St. Louis remained divided from the east another five years, until engineer James B. Eads completed his bridge across the Mississippi River.

The Old Courthouse continued serving as a forum for public speakers and events. As Kansas became embroiled in a bloody struggled between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions in 1854, St. Louisians assembled to petition the Federal government for help. While the majority of Missouri sympathized with the south, St. Louis remained loyal to the Union. With the waging of the Civil War, citizens gathered to enlist in a volunteer brigade defending the Union. Troops squelched a rebel uprising, and for the remainder of the war, St. Louis remained free from violence.

No sooner was the building bedecked in celebration of the Civil War's end, than news arrived of President Lincoln's assassination. A memorial in the courthouse rotunda so impressed young visitors that years afterward, some claimed to have seen the president himself reposing in state.

The nation and St. Louis headed toward happier times, but the struggle for equality and justice continued. Election official, Reese Happersett, was just enforcing the law when he refused to register Virginia Minor to vote in the 1872 presidential election. He soon found himself facing Minor in court, where she was determined to challenge restrictions against women voting in public elections. Minor pursued her case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that "the Constitution of the United States does not confer the right of suffrage upon anyone." Not until 1920, forty-five years after Minor's suit, did the 19th Amendment established female sufferage.

For approximately eighty-eight years the St. Louis courthouse fulfilled its intended purpose. The courts eventually moved to a bigger, more modern building, abandoning the Old Courthouse to neglect and disrepair. With the creation of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in 1935, the National Park Service acquired the building and began restoring it to its original grandeur. Today, the Old Courthouse houses administrative offices for the park service and continues hosting public functions, such as free-speech assemblies, concerts, educational programs, and naturalization ceremonies. The building itself memorializes the history of St. Louis and its place in Westward Expansion.